

REMARKS

Claims 1 – 25 were pending in the present application. Claims 1, 9, 15 and 21 have been amended. Claim 26 has been added. Claims 1 – 26 remain pending in the present application.

Claims 1 – 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being anticipated by Frey et al. (U.S. Patent Number 6,029,168, hereinafter ‘Frey’) in view of Mukherjee (U.S. Patent Number 6,466,978, hereinafter ‘Mukherjee’). While applicant respectfully traverses this rejection, Applicant nevertheless has amended independent claims 1, 9, 15, and 21 to recite a limitation of a “signature indicative of a modification history”.

Applicant can find no teaching or suggestion in either Frey or Mukherjee of a “signature indicative of a modification history,” as recited in Applicant’s amended independent claims 1, 9, 15, and 21.

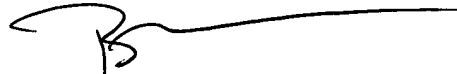
Accordingly, independent claims 1, 9, 15, and 21 are believed to patentably distinguish over Frey and Mukherjee. Each remaining claim 2-8, 10-14, 16-20, and 22-26 is dependent, directly or indirectly, upon one of the amended independent claims, and is thus believed to also patentably distinguish over Frey and Mukherjee.

CONCLUSION

Applicant submits the application is in condition for allowance, and an early notice to that effect is requested.

If any fees are due, the Commissioner is authorized to charge said fees to Meyertons, Hood, Kivlin, Kowert, & Goetzel, P.C. Deposit Account No. 501505/5760-16700/BNK.

Respectfully submitted,



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